Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DURBAN 00758 211818Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05 /099 W

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R 211430Z NOV 77
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2736
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DURBAN 0758

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: BLACK POET DETAINED; BANNED INDIAN FLEES TO LONDON

REF: DURBAN 0688,

1. NATAL PRESS REPORTED MID-NOVEMBER DETENTION IN HARRARSDALE, NATAL, OF BLACK POET MAPHEKE PASCAL GWALA AND FLIGHT TO LONDON (VIA MAPUTO) OF BANNED INDIAN ACTIVIST M.D. NAIDOO. GWALA, A WELL-KNOWN WRITER AND POET, HAS TWICE BEEN A CANDIDATE FOR IOWA WRITERS' PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO REPORT HE WAS ARRESTED NOVEMBER 14 AND IS BEING HELD UNDER SECTION 6 OF TERRORISM ACT. ALTHOUGH GWALA HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY OVERT POLITICAL ACTIVITY, HE WAS PREVIOUSLY AN INSTRUCTOR FOR INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION, AN ARM OF BLACK TRADE UNION FEDERATION TRADE UNION AND ADVISORY COORDINATING COUNCIL (TUACC).

2. NAIDOO, BROTHER OF NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS PRESIDENT (AND FY-77 UNCLASSIFIED

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IV GRANTEE) M.J. NAIDOO, WAS SERVING THIRD FIVE-YEAR BANNING TERM WHEN HE FLED. M.D. NAIDOO WAS FIRST BANNED IN 1962. HE WAS CONVICTED IN 1967, OF BEING AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF S.A. COMMUNIST PARTY, OF ASSISTING PERSONS TO LEAVE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY, AND OF BEING IN POSSESSION OF BANNED BOOKS AND WAS SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS ON ROBBEN ISLAND. UPON RELEASE IN 1972 HE WAS SERVED WITH SECOND BANNING ORDER. M.D. NAIDOO IS

LATEST IN GROWING NUMBER OF BANNED INDIANS (MOST RECENTLY FATIMA MEER'S SON RASHID (REFTEL) WHO HAVE FLED SA FOR LONDON (WHERE AT LEAST ONE, S.R. MAHARAJ, HAS BEGUN WORKING FOR ANC). NAIDOO'S WIFE PHYLLIS FLED SA FOR LESOTHO EARLIER THIS YEAR (DURBAN 503).FARBER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: BLACK POET DETAINED; BANNED INDIAN FLEES TO LONDON

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF, (GWALA, MEPHEKE PASCAL)

To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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